

George Hotel, St Kilda, Melbourne
12 May 1879

Dear Andrew,

After a most Exhausting days
work & a long night of drafting to be
ready for the morrow I snatch a
few moments to scrawl you a few
lines in order to be ready for the
morning post which closes very early.
I wrote you an official
letter to the day showing you the
draft re Ruby Tin Mining Co but had
not time to add a line for myself.

I thank you very much for
the trouble you took in executing the
commissions mentioned in my last
letter - Dama "Pupple". I shant answer
his letter - Here now!

On referring to my letter you will
find no mention of Salsman or of
the legal point I referred to - Kind
attend to this, when you can.

spare the necessary time -

Robertson's people are just in the same muddle - They handed me the same old second vol. of Gleider's & confessed they had no idea whether they had any prospect of ever receiving the other - They had not Hartman's in fact I think they were "full" of conceit & ashamed of themselves. I advise you to order the work direct through your own bookseller.

Would you mind sending me in your next a report of how the M^t. Bischoff & Stanley ~~Lin~~ Tin Mines are looking, the present & probable future values of the shares - I write this at the urgent request of a friend who has some shares in one of the companies I have mentioned - Do you advise investment in these or any other Tasmanian ventures?

I send you the Angus thinking
that "J.H.'s" Articles may interest you.

I have no news of any great
interest to send you. I am
still overworked & my health is
rather shaky. I like the "George"
find it a slight improvement
on private lodgings as it offers
some facilities for study. As soon as
I get "round on" my work. I am
going to turn my attention to literature
& hope before long to send you the
result of my lucubrations in
print. I am living quietly &
saving money but my prospects
are very unsettled. I don't know
whether to apply for admittance here
or whether I shall have to make for
New South Wales. Everything depends on
the result of the next 2 or 3 weeks
- I am left no alternative but to
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P.S. The Tin Coy is the "Stanhope" I think.
Excuse the paper - It's all I can find. Here
is the colour of my prospects.

As consequence of the curious
Complicated state of my private
affairs (you guess what I refer to!)
Business here is in a dreadful
state - trade is dull, the country
depressed & an Commercial failure
follows just on another. Aaron, the
proprietor of the Academy of Music
& Fox, M.C.A., are the most notable
instances ~~available~~, but no man dares to trust
his neighbours & a Commercial
panic crisis is evidently close
at hand. Our political troubles
& the recent drought has been
which caused the ~~the~~ ruin of
thousands of farmers, help to make
the future blacker. If there is also a
panic in the land market Heaven
help Victoria! Even as I write the
probable failure of a local bank is
being discussed & many of the leading
houses are reported as "shaky."

I am ashamed to mention Wilton
& Joy but hope some day to
be able to write to them -
In the meantime give them please,
my fraternal love & ask for yet
a little while longer to be content
with the "apologetic newspapers."
(Has Joy's domestic circle
increased? Am I to congratulate
or console with him?)

Please present the kindest
regards of both myself & Whiting
to Mrs Clark - Whiting asks of
you often, that is when we are,
for our fast increasing engagements
allow of seeing one another but
seldom.

I am sorry to say I get nothing
but bad news from Tasmania - but
I am getting "case-hardened" I think
the novelty of being miserable has

Long since disappeared & apathy follows.
In fact I never do anything now but
sit and lazily wondering what new
disgraceful trick a "scurvy Providence"
is about to play me. I can see no
end to the muddle. I believe I am
even ceasing to hope the power
of being Envious of other people's
good fortune. If I ever do meet with
any luck it will come too late, for
I shall have lost the faculty of enjoyment.
I shall be blasé.

Shall I tear up this last sheet?
I feel half inclined. However let it go.
Let me conclude by significantly reminding
you that I Endeavour to tell you at
some length what my thoughts are & that
the sight of a letter in a familiar
straggling handwriting does "light with
hope with the wearied eyes" & cause this
dull heart to feel a throb or two.
I know strepap on your long suffering
patience kindness & am happy in the
thought have I have ⁱⁿ you such a friend as
few mortals are blessed with. Now I am away.

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